(c) whether it is also a fact that the USA is taking such initiatives to bring India under its influence; and

(d) if so, what is Government's stand thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Four stage approach to resolve Kashmir issue

1267. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that President of Pakistan has recently outlined a four stage approach to resolve the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) President General Musharraf had, on several occasions, outlined the so called "Four stage approach to resolve Kashmir issue". During his recent visit to US in June 2003, General Musharraf reportedly referred to this approach once again, elaborating these as: (i) the two sides, Pakistan and India, have to start talking to each other, hold dialogue; (ii) accepting the "centrality" of the Kashmir "dispute" to be resolved for better relations between India and Pakistan; (iii) the elimination of whatever is unacceptable to Pakistan, India and the people of Kashmir; and (iv) trying to hit the solution that is "win-win for Pakistan, India and the people of Kashmir".

(c) Under the Simla Agreement and as reiterated in the Lahore Declaration, both India and Pakistan are committed to resolving all issues peacefully through direct bilateral dialogue. However, creation of conducive environment for a sustained dialogue necessarily requires an end to cross border terrorism and dismantling of infrastructure of support to terrorism on permanent basis by Pakistan. The Composite Dialogue framework, agreed to between the two countries, provides the

structure for conducting any dialogue process. There is no agreement between the two countries on Jammu and Kashmir being a so-called "central" or "core" issue.

Measures to counter India's negative projection abroad

1268. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's negative projection abroad especially in the US has been reported by eminent personalities like UN civilian police adviser; and

(b) the measures proposed by the Indian Missions abroad to counter such projection and depict true picture for attracting foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Senior civil servants deployed with the United Nations Secretariat do not report on such issues to the Government of India.

(b) The Government is constantly taking steps to counter any negative projection and to project the correct perspective. These steps, include *inter-alia,* regular press briefings by the Official Spokesperson, production and dissemination of films and other audio-visual material including on tourism, publications in foreign languages, visits to India by eminent media personalities, organization of seminars and conferences on themes of critical relevance, involvement of Non Resident Indian, Persons of Indian Origin and tourism offices abroad in our publicity efforts, interaction by senior Indian diplomats with editorials boards of newspapers and on main television news programmes, and utilization of the internet for projecting the views of the Government and projecting India as a modern progressive country which is also an attractive tourist destination.

Indo-Pak Bilateral Trade

1269. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India-Pakistan bilateral trade at present stands at a dismal figure of $ 250 million per annum against its potential of $ 6 billion figure;